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Organization of Zlatograd Uchastuk

1. The Zlatograd Uchastuk of the Momchilgrad Sector has under its jurisdiction five Zastavas of 30 to 40 men. Besides the strength of the five Zastavas there are about 100 officers and men stationed at the Uchastuk headquarters in Zlatograd. Those not assigned to administrative duties form part of a reserve force which is sent out to strengthen or aid the Zastavas in emergencies.

2. The commanding officer of the sector headquarters at Momchilgrad is a certain Major Papalozov. The commanding officer of the Zlatograd Uchastuk is a certain Captain Tasev, who was a Communist partisan during World War II; the political commissar is a certain First Lieutenant Petronov.

3. The men assigned to the Uchastuk, besides their regular armament of the rifles and sub-machine guns, use heavy machine guns, mortars and light anti-aircraft machine guns. The latter are only used in extreme emergencies.

4. The five Zastavas of the Zlatograd Uchastuk are located as follows:

Location	Code Name
a. Mergazian	Karam Fil
b. Kobiladol	Mak
c. Kutleskovo	Zdravets
d. Unknown	Kokits
e. Kusla	Loza

5. The commanding officer of the Kutleskovo Zastava is Second Lieutenant Ilia Ivanov, a Communist from Sofia. The political commissar is Second Lieutenant Ivan Angelov Vatsov, from the Lom region.

Training Procedures for Border Guards

6. Border guards are chosen from men called for regular military service by the military draft boards. In choosing men for frontier duty, special attention is paid to the man's past record (good conduct and morals record), his profession and social class. Usually the sons of villagers and shepherds are preferred because they are already accustomed to living in the open and

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moving about at night.

7. The men chosen for Border Guard duty are then sent to special Border Guard Training Centers (Battalions) where they receive regular military training and special training for frontier duty. Some of these training centers are located as follows:

a. Svishtov
b. Silistra
c. Veliko Turnovo
d. Pleven
e. Dobrich
f. Zlatograd

8. During the winter of 1949-1950, a battalion of about 700 men of the 1929 military class received training in Zlatograd. Another battalion of the 1930 military class is at present in training at Zlatograd.

9. Besides regular military training, border guards are trained in the setting up of ambushes, camouflage, patrolling, the apprehension of illegal border crossers, and the attacking of enemy guard posts.

10. Non-commissioned officers are chosen from army men who have been decorated for bravery or for meritorious service (usually corporals), or from the border guard ranks. These latter must attend a special frontier non-commissioned officers school located in Gorna Banya, near Sofia. The training period at this school lasts seven months; in order to attend, a candidate must be a member of the Communist Party of Bulgaria.

Organization and Armament of the Zastava

11. The Zastava is composed of about 30 to 40 men depending upon the sector and terrain under its jurisdiction. Of this number, two are commissioned officers, usually second lieutenants, but sometimes first lieutenants. One officer is charged with the operational control of the unit; the other is charged with the political indoctrination of the men.

12. A staff sergeant handles the administration of the unit and also is responsible for organizing the patrols. In addition there are three sergeants, each of whom acts as a squad leader. Each squad has about ten men including a corporal: two operate automatic guns (similar to the BAR); two are assistant gunners; two are ammunition carriers; and the rest are skirmishers.

13. The officers and sergeants carry automatic pistols, usually Russian Tokarevs. Automatic gunners are armed with 7.92 mm. German machine guns, but also carry Tokarev pistols as side arms. Each assistant gunner carries two boxes of ammunition, each containing 12 belts of 50 rounds. Assistant gunners also carry either a Russian Spagen sub-machine gun with two drum clips of 71 rounds each or a Russian Vintovka rifle with 60 rounds of ammunition. Ammunition carriers bear two boxes of ammunition, and a sub-machine gun or rifle. The remaining four men carry sub-machine guns or rifles. Usually, the squad is armed with four rifles and four sub-machine guns, but the persons carrying these weapons vary from squad to squad. All of the men in the squad, excepting the sergeants, carry two hand grenades of the stick handle type.

14. If a Zastava is located near a main highway, or if a main highway crosses its area, it is also furnished with a light anti-tank gun of undetermined caliber or make. Border guards who operate anti-tank guns receive special training in a school at Sofia.

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15. The Zastava operates on a 24-hour duty basis. Four patrols composed of four men are sent out between 1900 hours and 0100 hours. The first patrol goes on duty at 1900 hours; the second patrol at 2100 hours; the third patrol at 2300 hours; the fourth at 2400 hours; a fifth patrol, composed of two men relieves the fourth patrol at 0100 hours.

16. Patrols have to remain on duty until relieved. From 0300 hours untill 900 hours, two observers are posted at each of three commanding spots to survey the frontier area through field glasses. Three men are always on duty at Zastava headquarters to carry out various headquarters duties. The sergeant squad leaders act as telephone operators when on duty. Men who are not on duty are usually free until 1500 hours. From 1500 until 1800, the men receive military training or political lectures. The Uchastuk political commissar gives monthly or bi-monthly lectures to the men of the Zastavas in his unit.

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